

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 203

Introduced by Assembly Member Lieber

January 28, 2003

An act to add Section 14079.6 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 203, as introduced, Lieber. Medi-Cal: physician reimbursement.

Existing law requires the State Director of Health Services to annually review the reimbursement levels for physician and dental services under Medi-Cal, and to revise periodically the rates of reimbursement to physicians and dentists to ensure the reasonable access of Medi-Cal beneficiaries to physician and dental services.

This bill would require the department to conduct an annual study of physician reimbursement rates in medical assistance programs in 5 comparable states and to submit an annual report to the appropriate committees of the Legislature on the study.

This bill would require the State Director of Health Services to consider the results of the annual study conducted as a factor in the annual physician reimbursement rate review.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 14079.6 is added to the Welfare and
- 2 Institutions Code, to read:

1 14079.6. (a) The department shall conduct an annual study of
2 physician reimbursement rates, patient access to care, and quality
3 of care provided under state medical assistance programs in five
4 states that are comparable to California.

5 (b) Commencing April 1, 2004, the department shall submit
6 the results of the study conducted pursuant to subdivision (a) to the
7 appropriate committees of the Legislature no later than April 1 of
8 each year.

9 (c) The director shall consider the results of the annual study
10 conducted pursuant to subdivision (a) as a factor in the annual
11 reimbursement rate review conducted pursuant to Section 14079.

